tactics

木下さくら
×
東山和子

10

tactics 10

木下さくら × 東山和子

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

...the God Izanagi no Mikoto came into the light at Tsukushi...
SHP
On the Celestial Plain where the spirits dwell, by the power of the divine fire and water principles...
Gods of purification, we entreat you to take away our sins, and cleanse us of all pollution
Great living spirits of heaven and earth...
...and bathed himself in the Tachibana River at Ahagi Plain.
MASTER RAIKOU, I KNOW YOU ARE STILL GETTING CHANGED...
SIGH...
...AND THIS IS RATHER HASTY...
Hear the wishes of our hearts with sharpened ears Thus we most humbly pray...

tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

10

Zou Stage 147
Zai Stage 117
Reisu Stage 87
Jin Stage 57
Kai Stage 27
Shi Stage 3

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales
Sha Stage

I WONDER IF KAN-TAROU'S ALL RIGHT...?
...
YOUR COMPLEXION HAS GROWN PALE.
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISTER DEMON EATER?
BUT MORE IMPORTANT...
YES. HE IS RESTING AT PRESENT.
...IT IS CRUCIAL THAT SHE POSSESS THE BODY OF A WOMAN OF THE MINAMOTO CLAN
BUT WE ALSO REQUIRE LADY FUJI'S ONMYOU SKILLS, AND IN ORDER FOR HER TO FULLY USE THEM...
LADY FUJI'S SOUL HAS ALWAYS REMAINED IN THIS WORLD, AND SINCE SHE HAS NO BODY, ROSALIE WHO HAS GREAT SPIRITUAL POWER, IS SERVING AS A MEDIUM FOR HER.
WHY DO I SENSE FUJI'S SPIRIT EMANATING FROM THE FOREIGN GIRL?

derp
derp

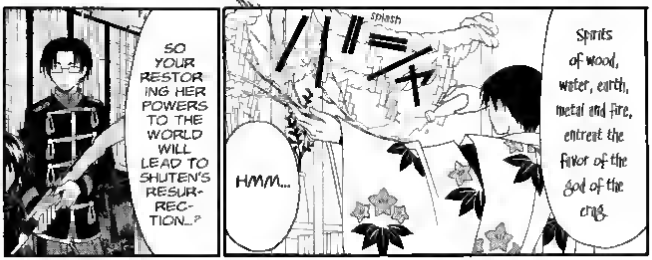
tactics

LOOK ...!
!!
shiver
YIKES, MAN

shoof

Living water from metal, greatest fortune, seek harmony.
Living metal from earth, greatest fortune, seek harmony

MISTRESS AYAME IS HERE TO SERVE THAT PURPOSE AT THIS TIME
HOWEVER, ALTHOUGH MISTRESS AYAME IS OF MINAMOTO BLOOD, HER SPIRITUAL POWER IS LESS THAN THAT OF YOUR AVERAGE PERSON, AND SO HER BODY CANNOT RECEIVE LADY FUJI'S SPIRIT
THEN, THAT GIRL...
YES, SHE WAS BORN TO BE A VESSEL FOR LADY FUJI.
HEY, WATANABE, YOU TALK TOO MUCH.
Living, water out of wood, greatest for tune we pray for harmony
...


SO YOUR RESTORING HER POWERS TO THE WORLD WILL LEAD TO SHUTEN'S RESURRECTION...?
splash
HMM...
Spirits of wood, water, earth, metal and fire, entreat the favor of the god of the crag.

I'LL TAKE DOWN FUJI AND THE WHOLE LOT OF YOU...!
BRING IT ON.

H-HEY, YOU! HOLD STILL!
...BUT I GUESS THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.
I TRIED SMEARING HER WITH FRESH YOUKAI BLOOD TO BRING UP HER SPIRITUAL POWER...

AUGH!
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU LET ME LEAVE.
I'M GETTING SICK OF YOUR LITTLE FARCE.
AND I'LL BE TAKING MY IDIOT MASTER WITH ME.

IT WAS RE-PELLED!
ZZT

rumple
AND WE WENT THROUGH ALL THAT TROU-BLE...

MASTER RAIKOU, WHAT ARE YOU DOING...?

!

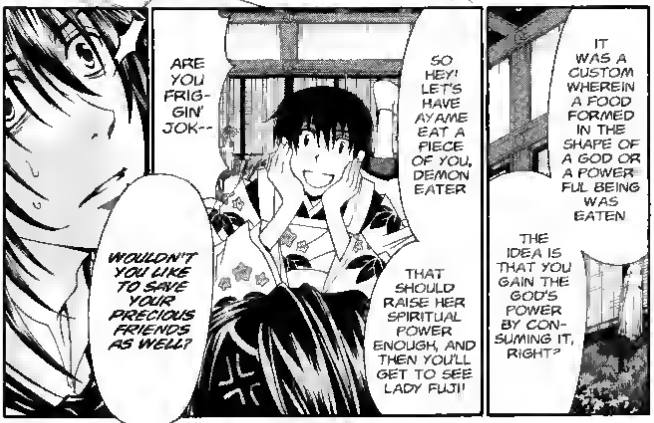
AWW MAN, IT DIDN'T WORK AFTER ALL.

slash
Zetsumei sokuzetsu un zanzandari zandarihan.
clap!
bwoom
NO, NOT QUITE.
HIS SORCERY IS EQUAL TO THAT OF MASTER RAIKOU!
HUH?
GUH ..!
AMAZ-ING..
OW..

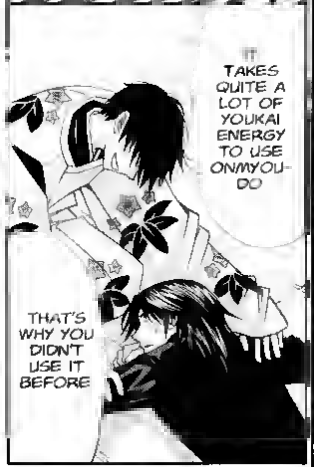
ka-rang
whiff
!!
thump
pmk
pmk
THEN COME PLAY WITH ME, DEMON EATER!
..EX-ACTLY.
YOU DO NOT DEIGN TO FACE ME YOUR-SELF?
A SPELL ..?

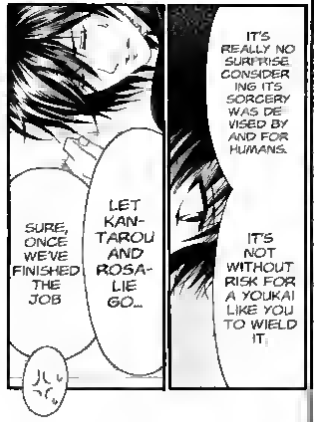
SORRY, DEMON EATER.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO KEEP PLAYING WITH YOU NOW..

whump
EVER HEARD OF "GOD EATING," DEMON EATER?
OHHH! I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA!
tomp
"WHAT-"
tomp
tomp


ARE YOU FRIG-GIN' JOK--
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS FRIENDS AS WELL?
SO HEY! LET'S HAVE AYAME EAT A PIECE OF YOU, DEMON EATER
THAT SHOULD RAISE HER SPIRITUAL POWER ENOUGH, AND THEN YOU'LL GET TO SEE LADY FUJI!
IT WAS A CUSTOM WHEREIN A FOOD FORMED IN THE SHAPE OF A GOD OR A POWERFUL BEING WAS EATEN
THE IDEA IS THAT YOU GAIN THE GOD'S POWER BY CONSUMING IT, RIGHT?

whump
?!


IT TAKES QUITE A LOT OF YOUKAI ENERGY TO USE ONMYOU-DO
THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T USE IT BEFORE


SURE, ONCE WE'VE FINISHED THE JOB
LET KAN-TAROU AND ROSA-LIE GO..
IT'S REALLY NO SURPRISE CONSIDERING ITS SORCERY WAS DEVISED BY AND FOR HUMANS.
IT'S NOT WITHOUT RISK FOR A YOUKAI LIKE YOU TO WIELD IT.

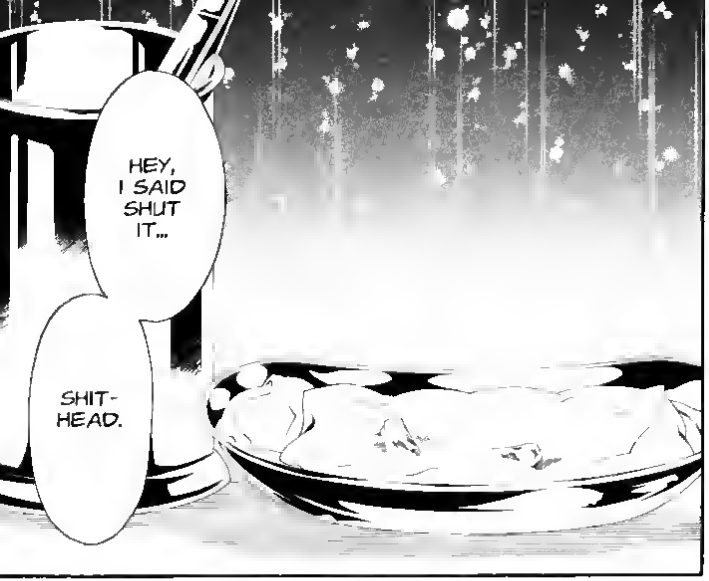
MISTER DEMON EATER IS AT HIS LIMIT.

INFLICTING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL AGONY, BUT WITHOUT KILLING...
...IS THE BASIS OF TORTURE.

YOU OUGHTA BE GRATEFUL, DEMON EATER!
...
THAT MADE IT SOME WHAT DULL, ACTU ALLY
IT'S RATHER IMPRESSIVE THAT HE DIDN'T SCREAM EVEN ONCE
I'M NOT SURE TORTURE WAS THE IDEA, GRAMPS

PLEASE, GRANT MY WISH
LORD DEMON-EATING TENGU.

I HAVE DONE AS YOU REQUESTED, THOUGH I AM NOT SURE IF IT WILL BE TO YOUR LIKING...
...MASTER RAIKOU.
YOU CERTAINLY DO EXCELLENT WORK, URABE!
JUST LIKE THAT, DEMON EATER GAVE IN!


HEY, I SAID SHUT IT...
SHIT-HEAD.

BUT HOW LIMITED YOUR POWER HAS BECOME...
SHUT UP, YOU LITTLE SHIT...
WOW. THERE'S STILL LIFE IN YOU.
HE WAS READY TO START BY PULLING YOUR FANGS! GOOD THING I STOPPED HIM
The date.

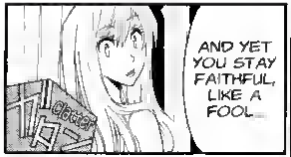
ONCE THE GREATEST, THE STRONGEST, THE MOST LEGENDARY DEMON-EATING TENGU...
NOW YOU'RE BOGGED DOWN BY WHAT YOU HAVE TO PROTECT.
YOU'RE NOT "THE STRONGEST" ANYMORE.
...

NOW GO RIGHT... NOW LEFT...
GOOD! NOW UP A LITTLE HIGHER...
OW ...!

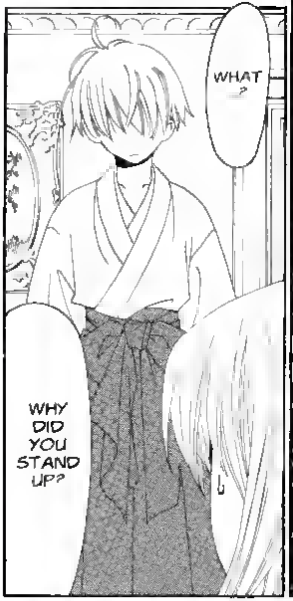
うわぁ!!
Waah!
wriggle
wriggle
THAT REALLY HURTS, DARN IT!!

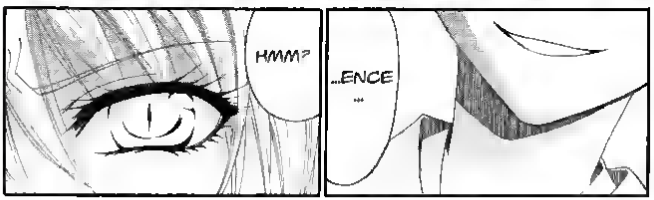
IT'S SUCH A PAIN!
IF ONLY YOU'D CANCELED DEMON EATER'S NAME CONTRACT WHEN YOU WERE ASKED, THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO PUT UP WITH THIS.
BUT I'M BORED!
WOULD YOU STOP PLAYING AROUND WITH THAT BUG INSIDE ME?!

...
IS PROTECTING YOUR BOND WITH HIM WORTH GOING THROUGH ALL THIS?
JUST WHY ARE YOU SO ATTACHED TO DEMON EATER, ANYWAY?


AND YET YOU STAY FAITHFUL, LIKE A FOOL...
clack

LE/MME TELL YOU, YOUKAI ARE MORE HEARTLESS THAN YOU THINK
FOR THEM, THE TIME SPENT WITH A PARTICULAR HUMAN IS LIKE THE WIND CARESSING THEIR CHEEK.
NOT EVEN WORTH REMEM-BERING


WHAT?
WHY DID YOU STAND UP?


HMM?
...ENCE...

C'MERE.

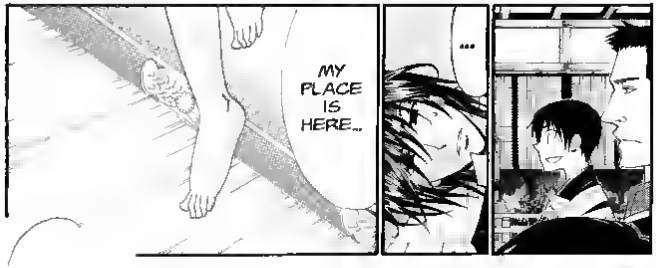
THIS IS WHERE YOU BELONG.
shwiff
fwaah
THIS WAY, LADY FUJI.

shwaa

DEMONS ARE BUT ANNOYING MAYFLIES.
SILENCE, YOU.

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOUR...?!
NO...
IT CAN'T BE...

O NOBLE AND DREADFUL TAIZANFU-KUN, BEFORE YOUR ALTAR...
fwoom
...I BE-SEECH YOU.


MY PLACE IS HERE...
...

...WITH MY BE-LOVED.
shiver

ALL IS PRE-PARED.
AS WAS PROM-ISED ON THAT DAY.

..I HAVE COME TO THIS PLACE.
AS PROM-ISED ON THAT DAY..

AND WE MEET AGAIN AT LAST.
Clatter
RIN.
!

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales
Kai Stage

Presenting the Flyer Distributed for ovares magazine's bookstore Launch!

When asked what "avarus" means:
(H)=Kazuko Higashiyama (K)=Sakura Kinoshita

(H) Yeah, what does it mean?! Is it a... a... a bastard? (That's mean!).
(K) Hey, it can't be that! I'll try: a...ava... avalanche.
(H) That's just got the first part. We need all the letters. A... A... Ava, rush on home.
(K) Uh... sure, that works. How about "Avant garde"? It sounds more French.
(H) No, that's not much better than "avalanche" was.

Aush I went to have beef stew for my last meal! Let the sake flow!
A family suicide!
What're we going to do, Kan-chan!!
What did you say?!
start

The correct answer: the Latin word for "grave."

tactics

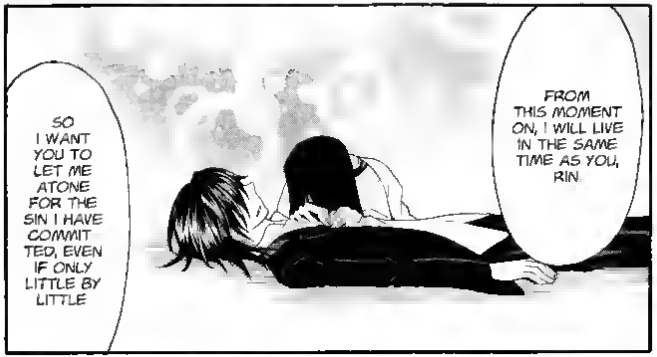
SHIT.. MOVE, DAM-MIT!
MOVE...!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, FUJI...!
YOU CAN'T KILL ME.

hee hee
SILLY RIN.
hee hee

I'M BACK WITH MY BELOVED, WHO I'VE MISSED EVER SO MUCH
I'M SO HAPPY MY HEART COULD BURST...

MY DAR-LING RIN..
DON'T GIVE ME THAT CRAP!
YOU BE-TRAYED ME! HOW DARE YOU CLAIM TO BE HAPPY TO SEE ME!

HOW CAN YOU BE SMILING NOW?
WHAT?


SO I WANT YOU TO LET ME ATONE FOR THE SIN I HAVE COMMIT TED, EVEN IF ONLY LITTLE BY LITTLE
FROM THIS MOMENT ON, I WILL LIVE IN THE SAME TIME AS YOU, RIN.

WAIT, WHAT ...?

YOU MAY BE AN EXPERT IN ONMYOU-DOU, BUT A HUMAN LIKE YOU SHOULD STILL BE DEAD, YOUR SOUL LONG GONE FROM THIS WORLD.
SO WHY?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "LIVE IN THE SAME TIME" AS ME?
I TOLD YOU, YOU HAVE TO TRUST ME...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN ...?
NOT THAT PART !!

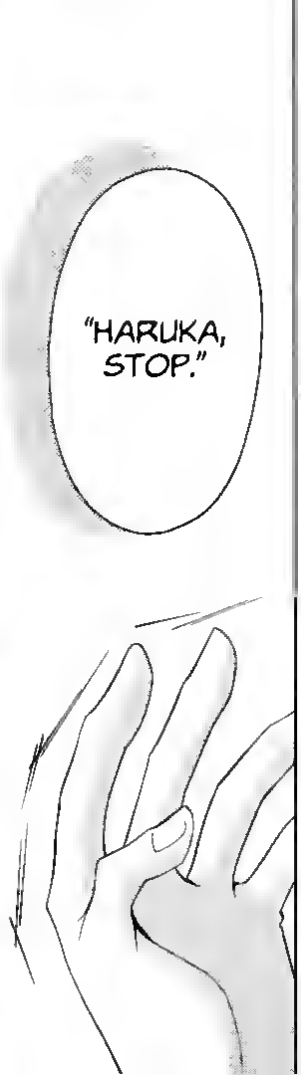
FORGIVE ME, MY GENTLE DEMON-EATING TENGU.
YOU CAN'T, BECAUSE I'M YOUR MASTER.

I HAD TO HIDE YOU AWAY FROM THE WORLD, NO MATTER WHAT.
I HAD NO TIME TO EXPLAIN BACK THEN
HIDE ME? WHAT THE HECK FROM...?
?
SO FOR NOW, I WANT YOU TO TRUST ME ON THIS.
...I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU, RIN

?!
RIN.. YOU'RE BEING A NOISY CHILD.
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT A NOISY CHILD HAS TO DO?
...
DON'T TOUCH ME!
Slap
WHAT THE HELL HAVE YOU DONE ...?!
A LOVER'S GUARREL?
HUSH NOW, RIN..
"KISS ME, RIN."
NO ...!

WHY ARE YOU ALIVE RIGHT NOW?!
...STAY AWAY FROM ME..
...RIN...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.


"HARUKA, STOP."

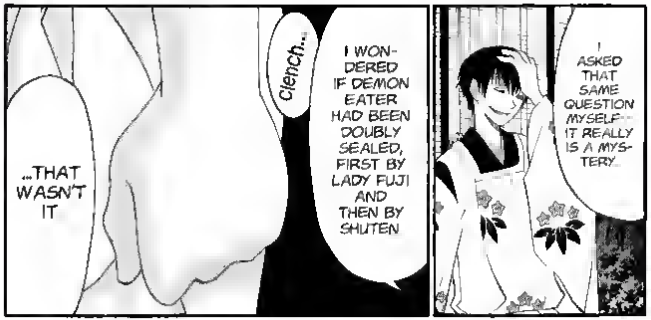
FUJI, STOP IT...!
RIN...
BUT I DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
IF YOU USE THAT ON ME, I...
IT'S AN ORDER.
"OBEY ME, RIN."
...FUJI ...!

RIGHT?
SORRY ABOUT THIS... KANTA-ROU.

YOU SHOULDN'T BE FORCED INTO ANY-THING...
...HARUKA.

IF NOT FOR YOU, THEN RIN WOULD COME BACK TO ME...
STIFF
KAN-TAROU ICHI-NOMI-YA...
WHAT SPIRIT !!
WOW!

WHY ...?
WHY WERE YOU THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD DO IT?
NEITHER I, NOR MINA-MOTO, NOR ANYONE ELSE COULD BREAK RIN'S SEAL.


...THAT WASN'T IT
Clench...
I WON-DERED IF DEMON EATER HAD BEEN DOUBLY SEALED, FIRST BY LADY FUJI AND THEN BY SHUTEN
I ASKED THAT SAME QUESTION MYSELF... IT REALLY IS A MYS-TERY.

AS YOU WISH.
...YOU THREE, GO SEE WHAT'S UP WITH IBARAGI
SAY...
HOW DID HE ESCAPE FROM HER...
PLEASURE TO MEET YOU... AGAIN, RIGHT?
...IN HIS CONDI-TION...?

...ICHI-NO-MIYA
DURING THE TOILET AFFAIR
DIDN'T WE MEET ONCE BEFORE AT HASUMI'S HOUSE?

...KAN-TAROU ICHINO-MIYA!
bwoosh
HOW COULD YOU SOIL MY RIN WITH A NEW NAME...

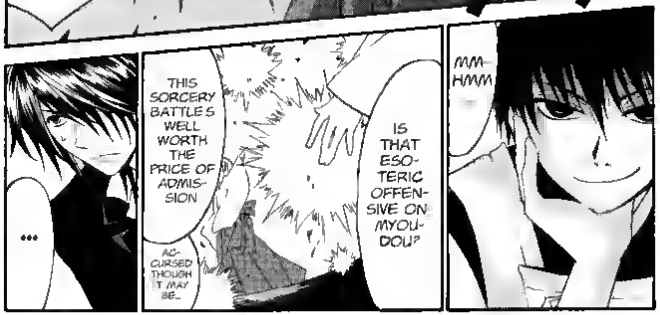
I SUPPOSE... YOU DID MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO MEET RIN AGAIN
FOR THAT I'M GRATEFUL, KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA.
THEREFORE...
I CAN'T REMEMBER...
I KNOW SOMEBODY SEALED ME AWAY...
...BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS, OR HOW THEY DID IT. THAT'S THE ONE PART I HAVE NO MEMORY OF.
THAT'S WHY I WAS SO SURPRISED...
I MEANT TO RELEASE RIN FROM THE STONE ONCE THE EXCITEMENT HAD DIED DOWN, BUT FOUND THAT A MORE POWERFUL SEAL HAD BEEN PLACED OVER MINE...
...SO I COULDN'T BRING HIM BACK TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

FUJI!! STOP!
THERE'S NO STOPPING HER NOW, DEMON EATER...
THE MORE YOU TALK, THE MORE LADY FUJI WILL BARE HER FANGS AT SENSEI...
bruoom
HELL HATH NO FURY, RIGHT?
RIN NEEDS NO OTHER MASTER THAN ME!
YOUR DEATH WILL BE QUICK AND PAINLESS!

fuoom
swish
clench
LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T WIN BY USING THE SAME ONMYOU TALISMANS AGAINST HER...
Tchk!
!!
zing

Antariwon sokumetsusoku birariya birari!
clap
clap

Om juchiri chararoha...
...unken sowaka.
zzt


...
THIS SORCERY BATTLE IS WELL WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION
AC-CURSED THOUGH IT MAY BE...
IS THAT ESO-TERIC OFFEN-SIVE ON-MYOU-DOU?
MM-HMM

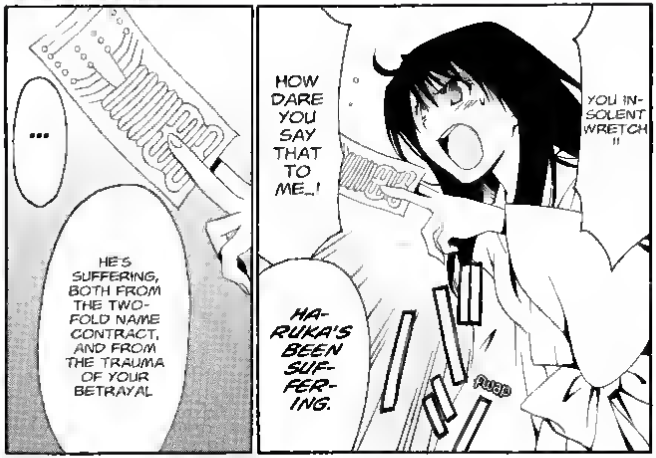
DAMN YOU, MINAMOTO..!
PLEASE BE QUIET, MISTER DEMON EATER
OHH, THANK GOODNESS! THE BUG'S STILL INSIDE SENSEI!
WHA..
KAN-TAROU?!
stumble
HGCK!

COME ON...
I'M TRYING TO WATCH THE BATTLE HERE! ♡
IT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE A FUSS NEAR A LADY WHEN SHE'S ANGRY
PROVOKING HER WON'T GET THE BUG OUT EITHER.

SO... wobble
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO SAY.
...!!

BUT YOU MUSTN'T CROSS THAT BOUNDARY.
..WHY YOU WOULD WANT TO BE WITH HARUKA FOREVER.
HAVING BEFRIENDED YOUKAI MYSELF, I CAN UNDERSTAND...
BREAKING THAT RULE IS PAINFUL FOR BOTH HUMANS AND YOUKAI.

I WONDERED HOW MY FEELINGS WOULD CHANGE IF I ACTUALLY MET YOU...
WHEN HARUKA TOLD ME ABOUT YOU, I WASN'T SURE WHAT TO THINK.


...
HE'S SUFFERING, BOTH FROM THE TWO-FOLD NAME CONTRACT, AND FROM THE TRAUMA OF YOUR BETRAYAL
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT TO ME...!
HA-RUKA'S BEEN SUF-FER-ING.
YOU IN-SOLENT WRETCH !!
PUSH

...THEN I CANNOT FORGIVE YOU.
IF KNOWING THAT NOW, YOU CAN STILL COMMIT THESE DEEDS...

Oh snap!

...

BUT HAVE YOU EVER ONCE CONSID-ERED HARUKA'S FEEL-INGS?

YOU...
grind
...

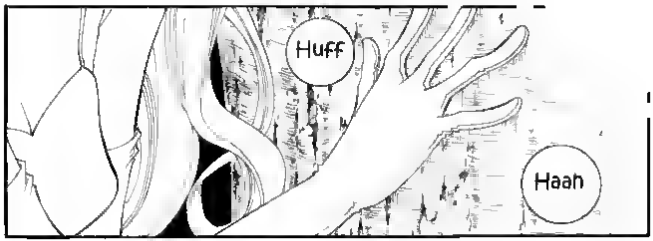
SURE, ANY-TIME...
THANKS
CLAP
SUR-MOUNTED THE UNDER-WORLD TO THE HIGH-EST, AND BEHELD TA'CHI-SHINKUN!
?!
AS THE NOTHING-NESS SHAT-TERED AND CONDENSED TO FORM THE WORLD, GIRT BY HAZE, AND THE ELDEST OF THE FIVE...
Smirk
IF YOU USE THAT SPELL ...!
WAIT, FUJI!

What?
SOMEONE LIKE YOU, WHO GIVES NO THOUGHT FOR HARUKA HIMSELF, IS UNFIT TO BE HIS MASTER!
YOU ROTTEN BITCH!!
Pft
bam
Bitch, eh?

THAT WAS CLASSIC, KAN-TAROU.
Heh heh heh!
GOOD GRIEF ...
Hee hee
I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE SAY ANYTHING LIKE THAT TO FUJI...

LORD SHUTEN...
WHAT'S HAPPENED...?
WAS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE...?
creeak
LORD SHUTEN...
KIUNK
...PLEASE SAVE ME...
awump
...FROM THAT WRETCHED HUMAN...!

zwa-zoom!


Huff
Haah

drabble
ゴボ
drabble
ゴボ
SHU...

LORD
SHUTEN
DOUJI...!

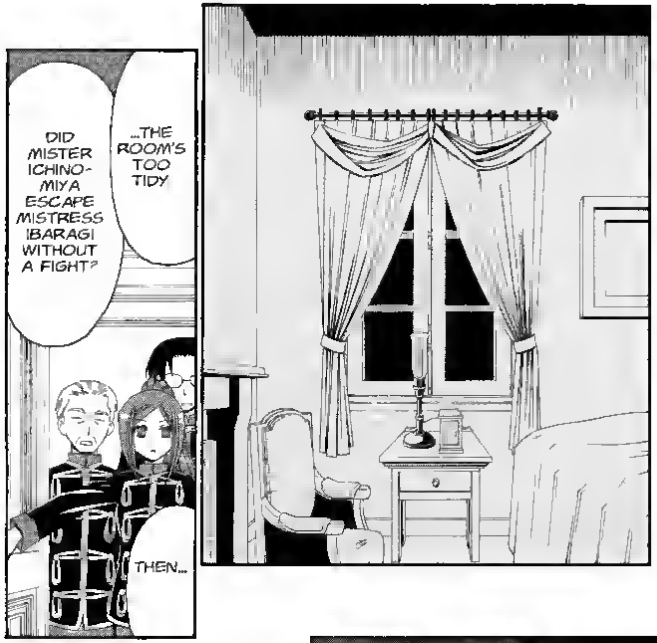
Say, did you know?
Every time your voice resonates inside me, my passion overflows.
That power could be stronger than kotodama...

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales
Jin Stage

rrruumble
AUGH...!
Clatter
Clatter
Clatter
rattle
rattle
rattle
AN EARTH-QUAKE ?!
swish
IS IT OVER ...?
bam

tactics

ONCE THOSE SPELLS ARE COMPLETE, SHUTEN DOUJI WILL BE RESURRECTED INSIDE THE TREASURE HOUSE.
BY SUMMONING TAIZANFUKUN, WHO GOVERNS LIFE AND DEATH, SHE CALLS SHUTEN'S SOUL...
...THEN BY ADDING THE ARCANE POWER OF TA'ICHISHINKUN, SHE CREATES SHUTEN'S BODY
!
LADY FUJI, THE GENIUS ONMYOUJI, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PERFORM THESE TWO SPELLS
THAT IS WHY WE ABSOLUTELY HAD TO REVIVE HER
BUT IT SEEMS THAT SHUTEN'S BODY IS NOT YET COMPLETE
THEREFORE...

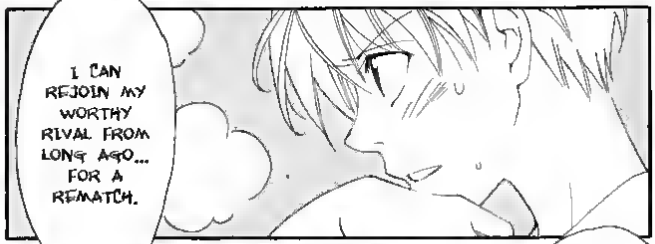

DID MISTER ICHINOMIYA ESCAPE MISTRESS IBARAGI WITHOUT A FIGHT?
...THE ROOM'S TOO TIDY
THEN...

...WHERE HAS MISTRESS IBARAGI GONE?
FUJI...
...YOU...

I AM SHUTEN DOUJI...
...RESURRECTED TO RAIN CALAMITY UPON THIS WORLD.

...I AM BORROWING THIS BODY.
IT'S NOT BAD FOR A SHORT STAY.

DEMON-EATING TENGU...
...HOW EXTREMELY DELIGHTFUL TO MEET YOU HERE.


I CAN REJOIN MY WORTHY RIVAL FROM LONG AGO... FOR A REMATCH.

AND AFTERWARDS, I'LL TOAST TO MY VICTORY WITH HUMAN BLOOD.
...!!

AUGH!
YOU SCARED ME!
NO...
KANTA-ROU?
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A PLACE LIKE...
THIS LITTLE GUY...

I WONDER HOW SHUTEN'S BODY IS COMING ALONG?
WHAT TO DO...
HUH? THE DOOR'S UN-LOCKED -
THIS IS THE TREASURE HOUSE, WHICH CONTAINS NUMEROUS ARTICLES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS OF THE MINA-MOTO CLAN

Creak
WE NEED TO PUT AN END TO THIS FARCE, FOR ROSALIE-CHAN'S SAKE IF NOTHING ELSE
COME ON, HARUKA.
...
smirk
MAYBE SENSEI AND DEMON EATER SHOULD BE THE FIRST TO ENTER
IF YOU'D BE SO KIND? ♡

ALL OF THEM...
...HAVE BEEN TAXI-DER-MIED?!

?!
slam
HARUKA, WHERE ARE YOU?!
HARU-KA?
GLUB GLUB GLUB
ポポ
glug glug
...

HARU-KA...
IT REEKS OF DEATH...
URGH...!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, HARUKA...?
THIS ONE...
ちゃん!
...IS TSU-GUMI-CHAN?!

MOUNTING THIS MOST LEGENDARY OF YOUKAI
HIS MAJESTIC FORM WILL BE PRESERVED HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY
THAT IS HOW I DEMONSTRATE MY LOVE FOR YOUKAI, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI
...KANTAROU...

YOU COULD CALL IT MY GOBLIN COLLECTION. ANOTHER PERSON MIGHT CONSIDER THEM WORTHLESS, BUT TO ME THEY ARE MORE PRECIOUS THAN MY LIFE...
WELL, MINAMOTO?
ARE THESE YOUKAI MOUNTS AND THAT REVOLTING HALF FLESHED DEMON HEAD SUPPOSED TO BE YOUR TREASURES?

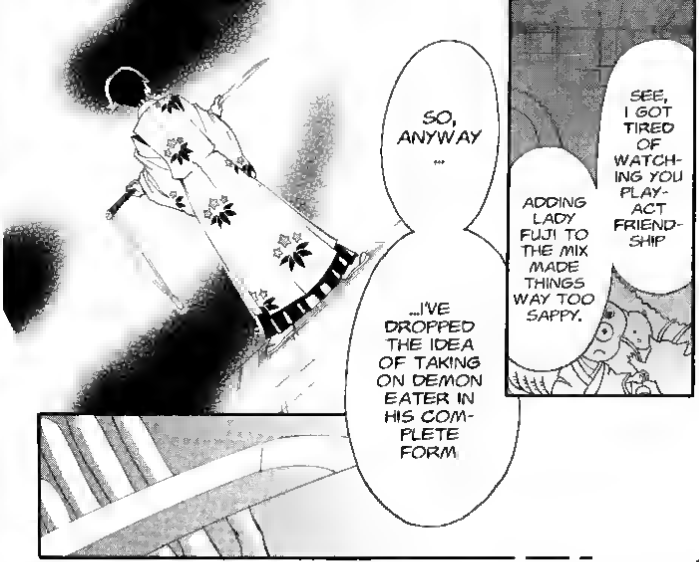
THIS TREASURE HOUSE IS PROOF OF THE SUBSTANTIAL POWER OF THE MINAMOTO...
ALL THESE MOUNTS ARE YOUKAI DEFEATED BY THE MINAMOTO CLAN
AND IT IS HERE THAT I WILL ACCOMPLISH THE GREAT FEAT THAT MY ANCESTORS COULD NOT

I'LL CONTENT MYSELF WITH THE DEMON EATER'S BODY, ALONG WITH THE BEAD INSIDE. ♡
SWOOP!

...YOU'LL BE THE PRETTIEST OF THEM ALL, DEMON-EATING TENGU
AMONG MY MOUNTED YOUKAI

?!

KAN-TAROU...
NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO TELL FROM YOUR HIDE JUST HOW FRAIL YOU REALLY WERE INSIDE


SO, ANYWAY ...
...I'VE DROPPED THE IDEA OF TAKING ON DEMON EATER IN HIS COMPLETE FORM
ADDING LADY FUJI TO THE MIX MADE THINGS WAY TOO SAPPY.
SEE, I GOT TIRED OF WATCHING YOU PLAY-ACT FRIENDSHIP

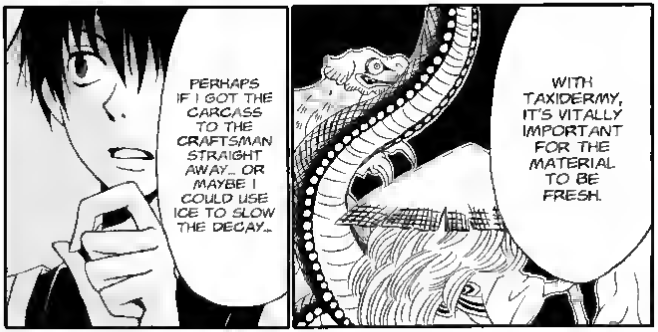
whizz
!
YOU DON'T MEAN ...?!

SHE'S NEVER BEEN OUT SO LATE BEFORE...!
MY ROSALIE HASN'T RETURNED EITHER.
KANTA-ROU GOT KIDNAPPED, DEMON EATER WENT TO SAVE HIM, AND NEITHER HAVE COME BACK YET?
SAY WHAT?!
What! Muu-chan, do you seriously like that guy?!
MUU MUU!
I'M NOT LAUGHING! SHUT UP, YOU OLD POSY!!
SHEESH, I COME TO VISIT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, AND EVERY THING'S A MESS...
DON'T LAUGH ABOUT MY MISSING DAUGHTER!!
AN ENGLISHMAN ASSOCIATED WITH THE MINAMOTO CLAN HAS BEEN AFTER ROSALIE

drip
HELP ME...
...HA...
HARUKA!
slash

I'M NOT EXACTLY A STRANGER TO THE MINAMOTO CLAN.
AND I'M DEFINITELY NOT INTERESTED IN LETTING THAT PARTICULAR PIECE OF HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF. NO THANK YOU.
Flap

YOUKO, DID I JUST SEE...
Whoosh
UH...?


PERHAPS IF I GOT THE CARCASS TO THE CRAFTSMAN STRAIGHT AWAY... OR MAYBE I COULD USE ICE TO SLOW THE DECAY...
WITH TAXIDERMY, IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE MATERIAL TO BE FRESH.

I'LL COME WITH YOU!
I'M GOING TO THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE TO GET THEM
IF ICHINOMIYA AND HARUKA ARE AT THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE, PERHAPS WE CAN MEET UP AND BRING HER HOME TOGETHER.
SINCE SHE HASN'T RETURNED YET, THERE'S A HIGH PROBABILITY THAT HE FINALLY GOT HER.
YOU'LL BE DEAD WEIGHT.
How direct it
Right down the middle!

THEY NEED TO REALIZE THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WORRY ABOUT THEM!
WELL, THOSE TWO HAVE A BAD HABIT OF LEAPING BEFORE THEY LOOK.

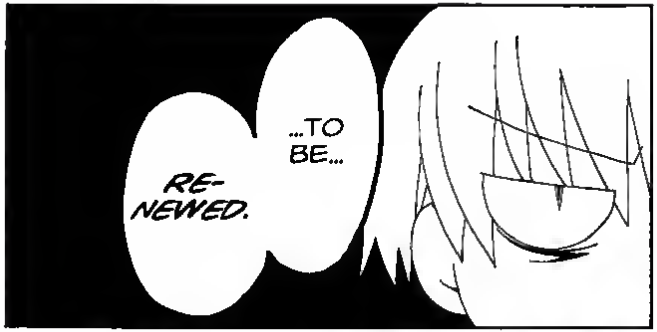
HUH?
Swish
...I'LL GO
...

REVOKE MY NAME...
...KAN-TAROU.
I CAN'T GET OUT...!
GAH...!
SKRTK SKRTK
...

THAT WILL RELEASE THE RESTRAINTS OF MY DOUBLE CONTRACT, AND THEN I CAN BREAK LOOSE..
JUST FOR NOW.
HARUKA...?

tssss
YOU TRYING TO STOP ME!?
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO STOP ME SENSEI WHEN YOU WON'T EVEN LISTEN TO MY REQUEST
MINA-MOTO!
BUT THE BEST OPTION IS TO PROCESS A CREATURE WHILE IT'S STILL ALIVE.

HA-RUKA...!
IT HURTS.
HELP ME.
KAN-TAROU
PLEASE HELP ME.
IT HURTS.
IT HURTS.
grit
URGH!


...TO BE...
RE-NEWED.

Om kurukushuyari bukiritadan-ouun.
THE HECK?!

?!

GIVE ME STRENGTH, KAN-TAROU...!
...
DE...
DEMON EATING TENGU HARUKA
KANTAROU ICHINO-MIYA HEREBY DECLARE THY NAME CON-TRACT
smirk

WHAT A SHAME. YOU'D NEARLY FINISHED REVOKING THE NAME CONTRACT THROUGH KOTODAMA.
YOU ARE THE FIRST HUMAN TO EVER SEE THROUGH ONE OF MY ILLUSIONS.
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO DO IT?
HOW? IT WAS OBVIOUS

AH, I SEE. YOU ARE QUITE AN INTERESTING HUMAN.
TRY DOING SOME RESEARCH BEFORE YOU START MAKING STUFF UP.
DEMON-EATING TENGU HARUKA WOULD NEVER SAY "HELP ME," NOT EVEN TO SAVE HIS OWN LIFE.
...
BUT PLEASE ..
IT MAY SOUND UNFAIR OF ME TO SAY IT LIKE THIS...
FUJI...

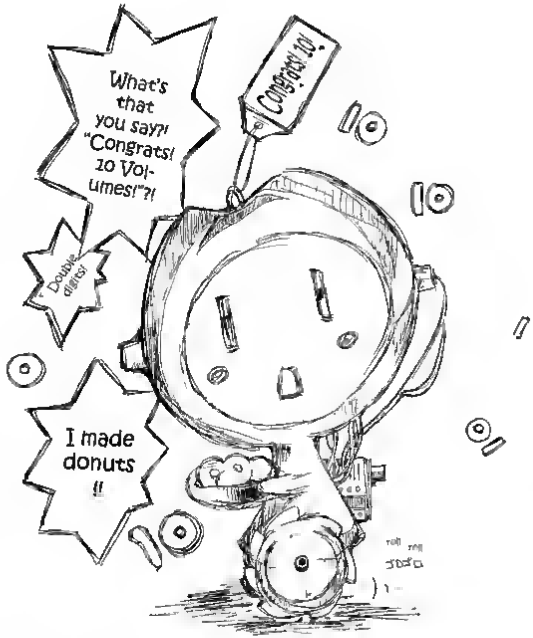
DON'T MAKE ME HATE YOU EVEN MORE

RIN, YOUR WORDS...
...ARE EVEN SHARPER THAN KOTO-DAMA...

LADY FUJI!
WHY IS YOUR GRACIOUS-NESS HERE...?
OH?
FOR A SUMMON-ING.
I'M SUMMONING MY BEAUTI-FUL...
...BLACK-WINGED BIRD.

Memoirs of a Demon-Eating Tengu: The Fuji Tales
Retsu Stage

URGH ...!
Haa
Haa
Haa
hrgk
?!
DEMON-EATING... TENGU!
WHY?
WHY DO YOU FIGHT.. A FELLOW YOUKAI?
GAAH!

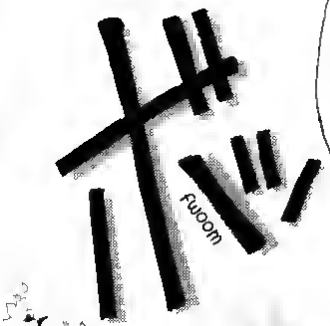

What's that you say? "Congrats! 10 Volumes!"?!
Congrats! 10!
Double digits!
I made donuts !!

tactics

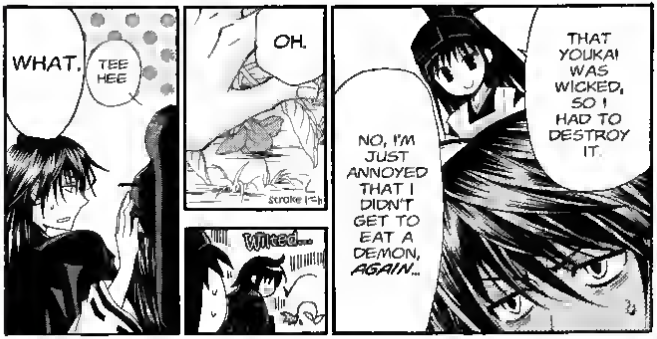
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE STILL NOT USED TO WATCHING YOUKAI BE SLAIN.
OH, RIN!

BECAUSE I'M NOW SUB-ORDINATE TO THAT SORCERER

YOUKAI WHO BRINGS CALAMITY DOWN UPON HUMANITY.


fwoom

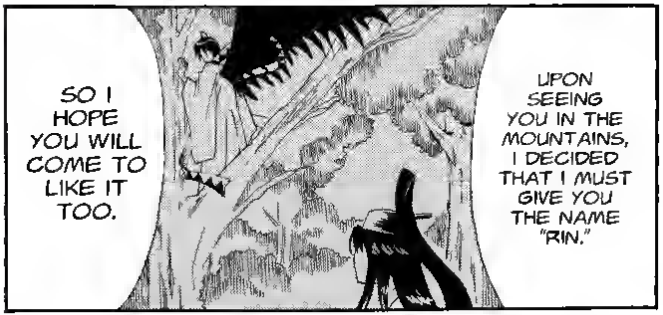
IN THE NAME OF THE GODS, I SLAY YOU!


WHAT.
TEE HEE
OH.
stroke
Wicked...
THAT YOUKAI WAS WICKED, SO I HAD TO DESTROY IT.
NO, I'M JUST ANNOYED THAT I DIDN'T GET TO EAT A DEMON, AGAIN...

I NEVER EXPECTED THE LEGENDARY DEMON-EATING TENGU TO BE SO GENTLE.
DON'T MAKE FUN OF ME..
IT'S A COMPLIMENT!
EVEN SO!

I NEVER EXPECTED THAT A YOUNG NOBLEWOMAN COULD BE AN ONMYOUJI.
HEE HEE HEE
IT'S COMPLICATED NOT LONG AGO WOMEN WEREN'T ALLOWED WITHIN THE ONMYOU BUREAU AT ALL, AND I COULD ONLY DO MY LORD MASTER'S SURPLUS WORK
WHEN I VISIT MY FAMILY, THEY CALL ME A TOMBOY AND A DISGRACE.
WELL, YOU'RE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO STICK A NAME ON ME, SO I'D SAY YOU'RE WELL QUALIFIED
THANKS, RIN...

SAY, RIN...
DO YOU LIKE YOUR NAME?
I DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT IT YET.
YOUR "RIN" IS WRITTEN THE SAME AS THE FIRST WORD IN THE KUJI SPELL.
IT'S ALSO THE WORD FOR THE INCARNATION OF THE GODS I WORSHIP, SO FOR ME IT IS VERY PRECIOUS

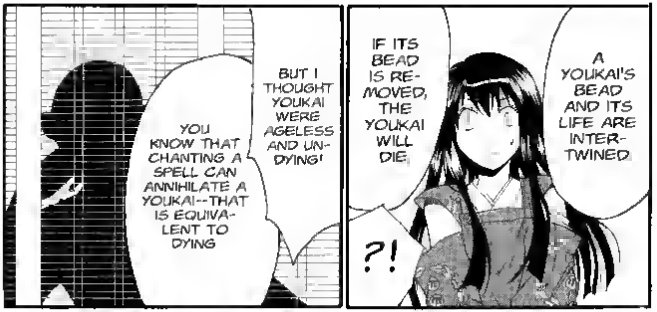

UPON SEEING YOU IN THE MOUNTAINS, I DECIDED THAT I MUST GIVE YOU THE NAME "RIN."
SO I HOPE YOU WILL COME TO LIKE IT TOO.

...WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT...

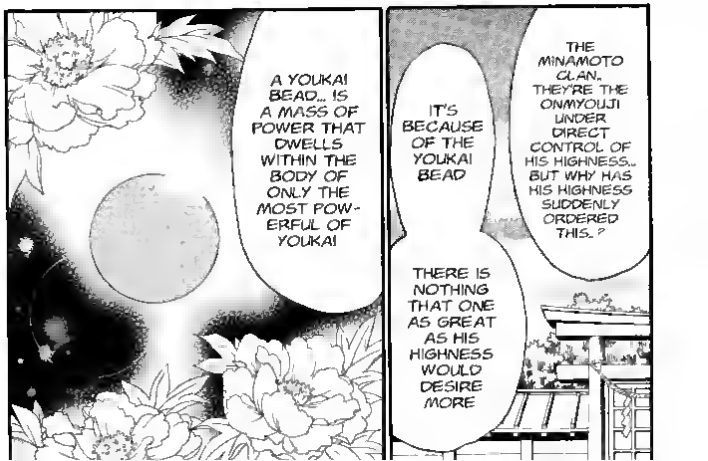
...RIN, YOUR MANNER CAN DEFINITELY GIVE RISE TO FALSE IMPRESSIONS.
THE HELL?
What's that supposed to mean?
WELL, I COULD NEVER HATE A NAME THAT YOU PUT SO MUCH THOUGHT INTO.

OKAY, ON TO THE NEXT JOB!
NO, LUNCH FIRST!
AWW!
GRUMP
HM?
NOW I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE NAME RIN ALL OVER AGAIN.

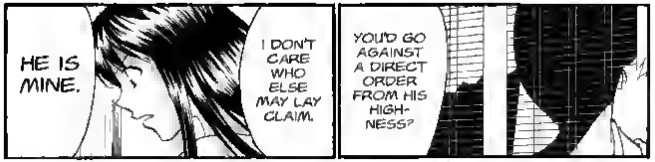
BUT I KNOW NOTHING OF THE ESSENCE OF THE TENGU'S BEAD, AND DEMON EATER MAY BE KEEPING ITS POWER HIDDEN.
?
BUT WHY...
A YOUKAI THAT IS STRONG ENOUGH TO CONSUME DEMONS MUST HAVE A BEAD WITH A CORRESPONDING LEVEL OF POWER
FOR EXAMPLE, THE BEAD OF A CHIMERA HAS THE POWER TO CALL THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, WHILE THE TAMAMO-NO-MAE'S BEAD ACTS AS AN APHRODISIAC
THOUGH A YOUKAI BEAD CONTAINS POWER FAR BEYOND HUMAN UNDERSTANDING, WE KNOW THAT ITS ESSENCE DEPENDS ON THE VARIETY OF YOUKAI

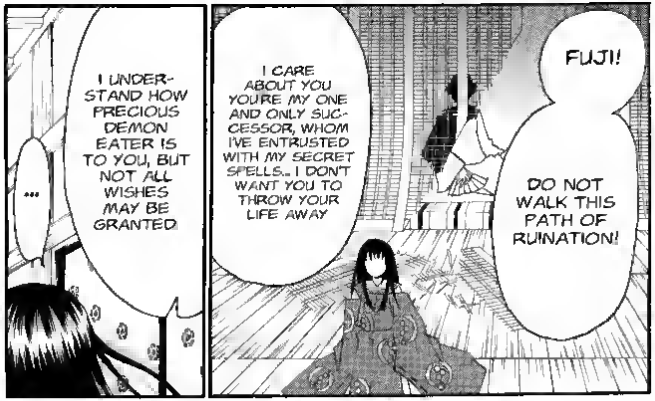

YOU KNOW THAT CHANTING A SPELL CAN ANNIHILATE A YOUKAI--THAT IS EQUIVALENT TO DYING
BUT I THOUGHT YOUKAI WERE AGELESS AND UNDYING!
IF ITS BEAD IS REMOVED, THE YOUKAI WILL DIE.
?!
A YOUKAI'S BEAD AND ITS LIFE ARE INTERTWINED.

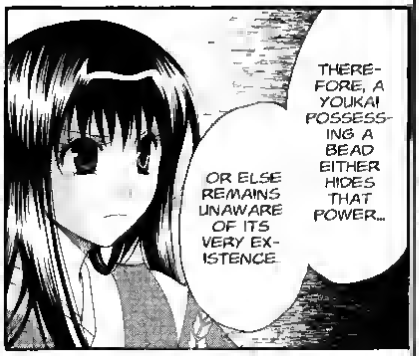
"CAPTURE AND PRESENT THE YOUKAI KNOWN AS THE DEMON-EATING TENGU."
IT'S AN IMPERIAL DECREE.
APPARENTLY ALL THE NATION'S SORCERERS, INCLUDING THE MINAMOTO CLAN, HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ACT UPON THIS
LORD MASTER, I DON'T UNDERSTAND...


A YOUKAI BEAD... IS A MASS OF POWER THAT DWELLS WITHIN THE BODY OF ONLY THE MOST POWERFUL OF YOUKAI
IT'S BECAUSE OF THE YOUKAI BEAD
THERE IS NOTHING THAT ONE AS GREAT AS HIS HIGHNESS WOULD DESIRE MORE
THE MINAMOTO CLAN. THEY'RE THE ONMYOUJI UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF HIS HIGHNESS... BUT WHY HAS HIS HIGHNESS SUDDENLY ORDERED THIS...?

I WON'T HAND HIM OVER.

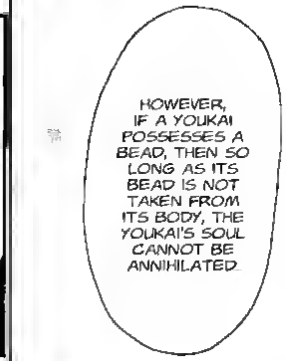

HE IS MINE.
I DON'T CARE WHO ELSE MAY LAY CLAIM.
YOU'D GO AGAINST A DIRECT ORDER FROM HIS HIGHNESS?

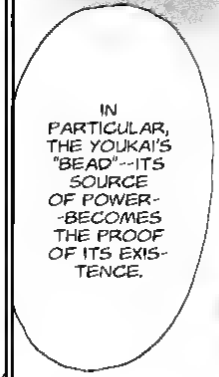

...
I UNDERSTAND HOW PRECIOUS DEMON EATER IS TO YOU, BUT NOT ALL WISHES MAY BE GRANTED.
I CARE ABOUT YOU YOU'RE MY ONE AND ONLY SUCCESSOR, WHOM I'VE ENTRUSTED WITH MY SECRET SPELLS... I DON'T WANT YOU TO THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY
FUJI!
DO NOT WALK THIS PATH OF RUINATION!


THEREFORE, A YOUKAI POSSESSING A BEAD EITHER HIDES THAT POWER...
OR ELSE REMAINS UNAWARE OF ITS VERY EXISTENCE.

NOW, AS FOR WHO COULD HAVE OBTAINED INFORMATION ABOUT THAT BEAD...
JUDGING FROM YOUR REACTION, THE LATTER MAY BE THE CASE FOR DEMON EATER.

YOU SHOULD LEAVE HIM IN MY CHARGE FOR THE TIME BEING...
WHIZZ
I ALONE KNOW THAT DEMON EATER IS YOUR SERVANT.
...BUT IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE OTHER SORCERERS DISCOVER THAT FACT.


HOWEVER, IF A YOUKAI POSSESSES A BEAD, THEN SO LONG AS ITS BEAD IS NOT TAKEN FROM ITS BODY, THE YOUKAI'S SOUL CANNOT BE ANNIHILATED.


IN PARTICULAR, THE YOUKAI'S "BEAD"--ITS SOURCE OF POWER--BECOMES THE PROOF OF ITS EXISTENCE.

OH MY.
WHAT A LARGE FEATHER.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ITS LIKE BEFORE...
I WONDER WHAT BIRD IT CAME FROM?
DIDN'T I EXPLAIN IT TO YOU WELL ENOUGH?!
YOU NEVER LISTEN! EXTEND THE BARRIER!
YOU KNOW THAT I HATE BEING COOPED UP LIKE THIS!
AWW, RIN, ARE YOU STILL ANGRY?
sullen むすー

I RESPECT YOUR COUNSEL, LORD MASTER...
..BUT MY WISHES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN GRANTED.
MUCH THE WAY THAT I ALONE COULD INHERIT THOSE SECRET SPELLS, THE TAIZANFUKUN AND THE TA'ICHISHIN-KUN.
WHAT A FOOL YOU ARE.

IF THEY CATCH YOU, WE MAY NEVER MEET AGAIN...
...BE CAUSE THE MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY ARE AFTER YOU!
YOU'RE NOT COOPED UP, YOU'RE IN HIDING...
...WHAT?
YOU AND I HAVE DIFFERENT LIFE SPANS, SO YOU WILL PROBABLY DIE BEFORE ME
OUR SEPARATION IS INEVITABLE
THAT'S BOUND TO HAPPEN SOONER OR LATER
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU, RIN!
I CAN'T ...!
YOU HAVE TO BE RESIGNED TO THAT FACT.
OUR FLOW OF TIME CANNOT BE CHANGED

AFTER WE MET, AFTER I FINALLY NAMED YOU...
I REFUSE TO LET THE FLOW OF TIME PULL US APART...!!
FUJI...?
drip drop
SOMEONE ELSE...
...
WILL YOU TALK TO SOMEONE OTHER THAN ME? WILL YOU TOUCH THEM?
SO, RIN, WHAT WILL YOUR LIFE BE LIKE AFTER I'M GONE?
plip
plip
I DON'T WANT YOU TO LEAVE MY SIDE!
I CAN'T ALLOW EITHER LIFESPAN OR FATE TO HAVE THEIR WAY!!

shwap
YOU ARE MINE, RIN! ALL MINE!!
!!
WHAT... HAVE I DONE...
HOW COULD I HURT RIN...?!
Ah!
swuft
whizz

WILL SOMEONE ELSE BECOME YOUR MASTER?
WILL THEY GIVE YOU SOME OTHER NAME BESIDES "RIN"?
shff
I WON'T LET THAT HAPPEN...
BECAUSE...
FUJI...? WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO...?
NO...
NOOO...
OW...!
squish

I CAME TO MEET YOUR PRECIOUS BLACK BIRD.
...FUJI...
WHAT THE HECK'S WRONG YOU'RE NOT ACTING LIKE YOUR SELF
Ow ow ow...
Creak

WHAT INSO-LENCE!
SHOW YOUR-SELF AT ONCE!
fuoom
gulp
Heh heh!
MI...
STILL PLAYING THE TOMBOY, EH, LADY FUJI?
MINA-MOTO NO RAIKOU ...!

I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THAT RUMOR A REALITY.
CORRECT. SHUTEN IS ALIVE AT THIS TIME. BUT.. I AM GOING TO KILL HIM SOON
WHAT?! THEN THAT MEANS ...
RIGHT NOW, THERE'S THIS YOUKAI, SHUTEN DOUJI, WHO HAS THROWN THE PUBLIC INTO AN UPROAR, AND SO THE ORDER HAS GONE OUT TO SUBJUGATE HIM.
BUT I HEARD A RUMOR THAT YOU DEFEATED HIM..?

..."TAIZAN-FUKUN" AND "TA'ICHISHIN-KUN," TO RESURRECT SHUTEN.
AND THEN, AFTER ENOUGH TIME HAS PASSED, I WANT YOU TO USE THE SECRET SPELLS THAT YOU ALONE HAVE INHERITED.

CORRECT. BUT IS THAT REALLY ALL THAT YOU DESIRE?
THEN YOU WON'T HAND RIN OVER TO HIS HIGHNESS?!
WHAT?
WHA ..?
IF YOU COMPLY WITH OUR WISH, I WILL GRANT YOUR WISH AS WELL.
WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE TRYING ..?
MY MASTER HAS FORBIDDEN ME TO USE THOSE SPELLS

!
YOU'RE A NOISY CHILD.
IF YOU HAVE WORRIES, TELL ME ABOUT THEM.

A DEAL?
HAVEN'T I ALWAYS SILENCED YOU THIS WAY?
RIN.

MY WISH WILL BE GRANTED, WITHOUT FAIL.
I'M SORRY, RIN PLEASE BE PATIENT JUST A WHILE LONGER, OKAY?
ONCE THE IMPERIAL DECREE HAS ENDED, I'LL RELEASE YOU RIGHT AWAY.
I'M WORKING HARD FOR THE FUTURE WE WILL SHARE TOGETHER FOREVER
YES.
IT'S TIME TO GO, LADY FUJI

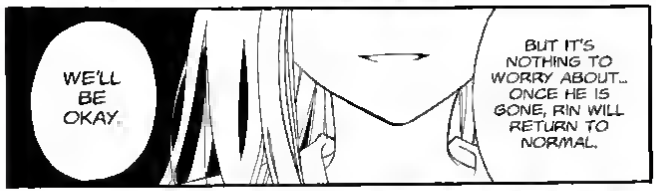
shluck

WERE YOU NOT AWARE?
SHUTEN DOUJI'S BEAD HAS THE POWER TO MAKE A SOUL LAST ETERNALLY
IT "STOPS TIME."

NEITHER MY AGE, NOR MY THOUGHTS, NOR MY FEELINGS TOWARD RIN...
BUT I MYSELF NEVER CHANGED ...
AS I SEARCHED FOR A WAY TO UNDO HIS SEAL...
...I LIVED ON, CONTINUALLY CHANGING BODIES WHICH I POSSESSED.
HOWEVER...
RIN HAD CHANGED COMPLETELY.

HOWEVER, I WAS UNABLE TO BREAK THAT SEAL...
FOR SOME REASON, RIN'S SEAL HAD BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO UNDO.

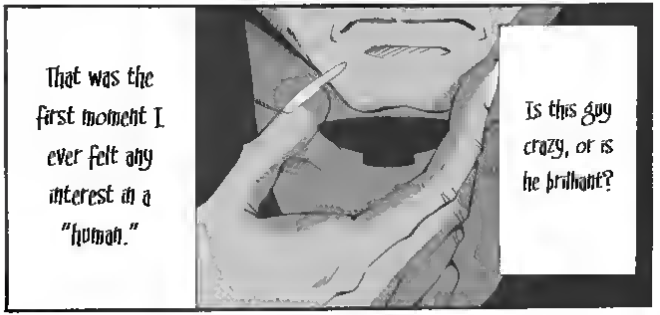
HE HAS BEEN CHANGED ---
BY THAT MAN.


WE'LL BE OKAY.
BUT IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.. ONCE HE IS GONE, RIN WILL RETURN TO NORMAL.

BECAUSE MY WISH WILL BE GRANTED.

In the distant past...
Before the door to my rock cavern, I had flora from every season on display, and a full set of beautiful women from throughout the capital.
The arrangements of corpses provided an excellent counterpoint to those gaudier elements

One day, that man, who could not mask his enormous spiritual power, spoke these words to me.
SHUTEN DOUJI..
I WANT TO ACQUIRE THE DEMON-EATING TENGU JOIN ME.


That was the first moment I ever felt any interest in a "human."
Is this guy crazy, or is he brilliant?

THAT IS JUST HOW IT GOES IN LIFE
AH WELL, HASTE MAKES WASTE
..IT'LL BE SOME TIME BEFORE SHUTEN'S RESURRECTION IS COMPLETE
LOOKS LIKE..

Kinoshita-Style Postscript

So this is tactics volume 10.
Looks like we've ridden all the way up to the double-digit level, but I still don't feel like stopping yet.
Just a bit longer.
I'll keep it cool and work hard to stay in practice... ☺ ☺

2008
Sakura Kinoshita

...RIN...
DON'T MAKE ME HATE YOU EVEN MORE...!
FUJI...
...PLEASE.

AND SO, KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA MUST...
DIE.
FUJI!
NOW I SEE...
YOU WILL ONLY BECOME MY RIN AGAIN WHEN THAT MAN IS GONE.

...WELL...

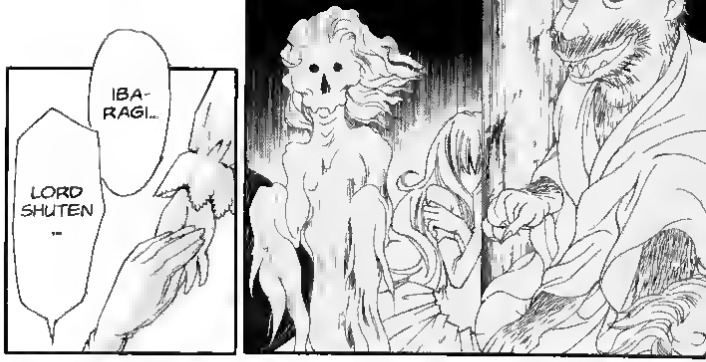
YOUR ARM GOT RE-PLACED BY SHUTEN'S ARM...

I BELIEVE THAT FEEL-INGS OF HAPPINESS CAN CHANGE DEPENDING ON ONE'S OUTLOOK.
DO YOU SUPPOSE YOUR LIFE WOULD BE HAPPIER, IF YOU WERE TO GIVE IT BACK?

ALTHOUGH LADY FUJI'S ACHIEVED THE REUNION HER HEART DESIRES...
OH, I SEE.
..SHE'S BEEN WEARING THIS PAINED LOOK ON HER FACE THERE MAY BE SOMETHING TO WHAT YOU SAY
FUJI...

MY BODY SITS BEHIND YOU
TO YOUR LEFT IS RAIKOU MINAMOTO ...
TO YOUR RIGHT, LADY FUJI...
AND HERE WE HAVE..
BEFORE YOU IS I... SHUTEN DOUJI.
IF YOU ...
IF YOU LAY ONE FINGER ON KANTAROU, I'LL...
WHO CARES IF YOU SUFFER ?!
I'M SUFFERING NOW!
AND THAT FEELING WON'T GO AWAY UNTIL I SEVER THIS MAN'S LIFE!
DAMMIT, FUJI, GIVE IT A REST...
Clunk
?!

SUCH A CALM AND COLLECTED MANNER, UNDER SUCH UNFAVORABLE CONDITIONS..
YET YOUR EYES ARE BRIMMING WITH TENSION AND BELLIGERENCE.
I'D PREFER ..
float
..TO SEE THOSE EYES STAINED WITH THE COLOR OF FEAR.
KAN-TAROU !!


IBA-RAGI..
LORD SHUTEN ..

I NEVER EXPECTED I WOULD TAKE INTEREST IN A HUMAN A SECOND TIME.
KAN-TAROU ICHINO-MIYA.
I'M..
..I'M AFRAID.. LORD SHUTEN ..
IN MY WHOLE LIFE..

AAAH!
!
CRASH
thud
whack
bam
SUGINO ?!
DEMON EATER!! KANTAROU!! HOW'S IT HANGIN'?!
Youko's pissed by the way!
THEY REALLY MAKE ME WANNA PUKE.
I SEE SOME OTHER FAMILIAR FACES WITH US THIS TIME.

?!
bam
BUT THAT COULD ONLY BE DONE BY...
IS THE ANTI-YOUKAI BARRIER AROUND THE MINAMOTO RESIDENCE BEING BROKEN?!
THAT SOUND ...!
bam
bam

crunch
IT'S NOTHING TO ME WHETHER YOU HATE ME OR NOT
THAT YOU TURNED YOUKAI INTO THESE... THINGS DOESN'T MAKE ME MAD, EITHER...
!
SO IT'S TIME TO SETTLE MY SCORE WITH YOUR ANCES-TORS
BUT NOW YOU'RE DOING IT TO MY FRIENDS
YOU AND YOUR GUYS, VERSUS ...
...ME AND MY POSSE.

ka-ching
flip
HEY!
I HATE YOU FOREVER ...!
HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT AFTER RUINING SHUTEN'S BODY! WE WERE ALMOST DONE PUTTING IT TOGETHER!
!
WHO CARES ...?
MAS-TER RAI-KOU!
slash

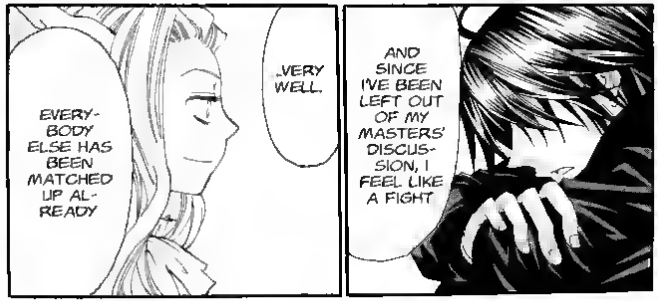
RIGHT NOW...FOR HARUKA'S SAKE, WE MUST DECIDE BETWEEN OURSELVES WHICH ONE OF US WILL REVOKE THEIR NAME CONTRACT.
LADY FUJI...
YOU DESIRE FOR THINGS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED, WHILE I HAVE NO CONTENTION WITH CHANGE.
EITHER WAY, NOBODY WILL WALK AWAY FROM THIS UNSCATHED.
HARUKA...
COULD YOU LEAVE ME ALONE WITH LADY FUJI?
WAIT, WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
WHAT...?

slash
zwip
DAMMIT!
HURRY...
SOMEONE MUST'VE DESTROYED THE BARRIER.
WHERE DID ALL THESE YOUKAI COME FROM?!
WE MUST GET BACK TO MASTER RAIKOU!

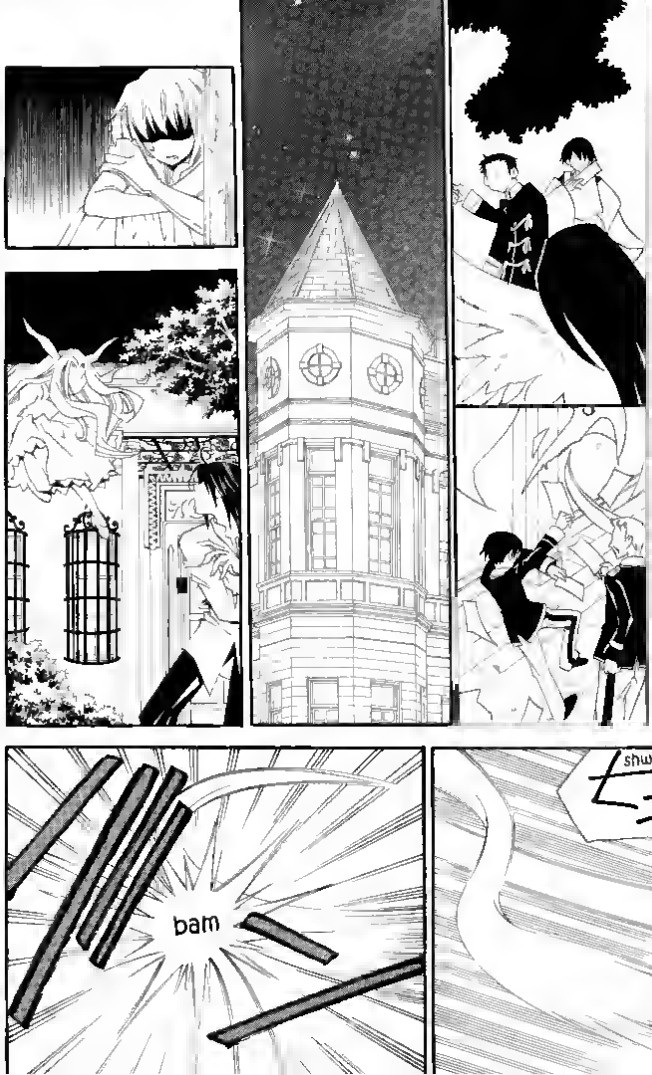
LET'S SETTLE OUR AGE-OLD RIVALRY.
IN ORDER TO WIN AN ARGUMENT ...
SHALL WE BEGIN?
...ONE MUST REFUTE THE OPPOSING SIDE.

...
IT'LL BE FINE.
PLEASE.

SHUTEIN...
...! IN MY POWERS, AND YOU IN BODY.
WE'VE BOTH GOT A HANDICAP ...


EVERY-BODY ELSE HAS BEEN MATCHED UP AL-READY
..VERY WELL.
AND SINCE I'VE BEEN LEFT OUT OF MY MASTERS' DISCUS-SION, I FEEL LIKE A FIGHT

Haa!
Haa!
...
WE SEEM TO BE EVENLY MATCHED IN TALENT..?
clap
者 sha
皆 kai
陣 jin
列 retsu
兵 pyou
闘 tou
在 zai
前 zen
臨 rin
NOT...
...THE KUJI?!


bam
shwip

WHA ...?!
IF THE KUJI WON'T WORK, THEN...
I'LL USE THE "JUUJI."
IF YOU USE IT, YOU WON'T BE LEFT UNSCATHED. THERE'LL BE CONSE-QUENCES.
THE JUUJI USES POWER BEYOND THE KUJI, A 10TH SEED WORD ON TOP OF THE REGULAR NINE.
DO YOU STILL INTEND TO USE IT ON ME, EVEN SO?
..BECAUSE THE CASTER WIELDING THE TECHNIQUE ALSO TAKES AN ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF DAMAGE.
THE JUUJI IS EXTREMELY POWERFUL, CERTAINLY, BUT IT'S SELDOM USED...
THAT'S WHY I THREW IT AT YOU.
THROW-ING THE KUJI...
YOU AREN'T A NORMAL PERSON.
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND...?! THAT WOULD BLOW A NORMAL PERSON TO SMITHEREENS!
Smash
On bazerado shakoku !!
THE KUJI DOESN'T WORK...
I'M NOT A NORMAL PERSON, AND I HAVE HIGH SPIRITUAL POWER. THE KUJI DOESN'T WORK ON ME.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER ATTACKS, RIGHT?
WHAT?
...SO WHAT DO YOU DO IN AN AB-NORMAL SITUA-TION?

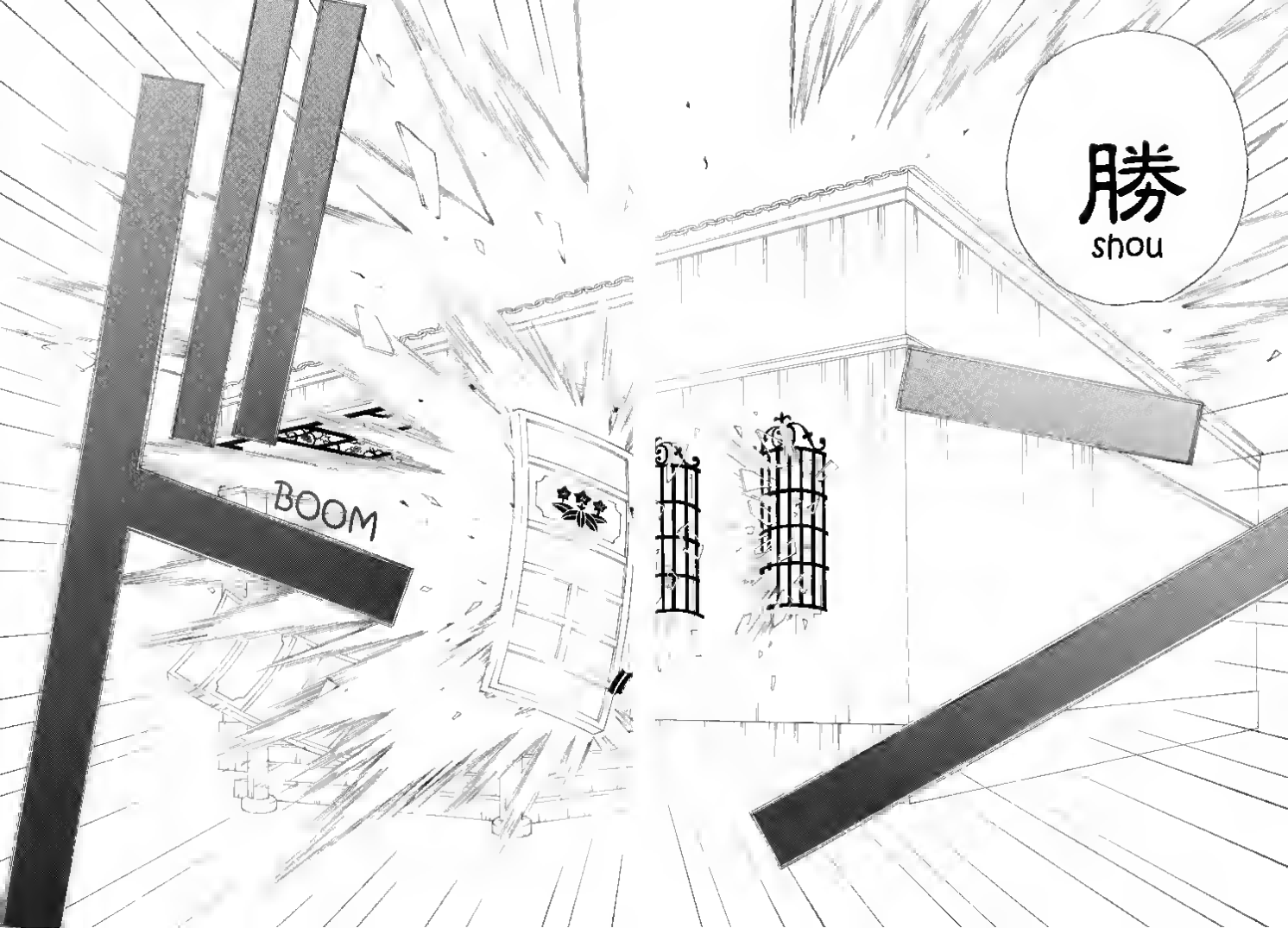
兵
pyou
臨
rin
闘
tou
者
sha
EVEN THOUGH HARUKA HAS BEEN TELLING YOU ALL ALONG...
YOU REALLY DON'T UNDER-STAND ANY-THING —
...LADY FUJI...
Crunch

列
retsu
在
zai
前
zen
皆
kai
HARUKA HAS ALWAYS ...
陣
jin

DON'T YOU SEE?
IF YOU MESS UP, BOTH OF US WILL DIE!!
STOP IT, I SAID!!
Rin pyou tou sha...

I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO LOSE TO THE ONE WHO CHANGED RIN'S HEART SO COM-PLETELY!!
LOSING TO YOU WOULD BE WORSE THAN DEATH!

OR BE WOUND-ING ME WITH HIS WORDS...
RIN WOULDN'T HATE ME LIKE HE DOES NOW
IF ONLY YOU WEREN'T HERE...


BOOM
勝
shou

URGH... TCH...
HEH HEH...
NOW RIN WILL BE ALL..
I DID IT...
I BEAT KAN-TAROU ICHINO-MIYA..!

...THIS IS..
THIS SENSA-TION..?
WHAT IS IT?
WHA..?
...HGCK!
shudder
shudder
...DEMON EATER?
GASP!

RIN...
WHAT'S HAP-PENED TO YOU...?

Higashiyama-Style Postscript

Yay! It's the tenth volume! We've managed to come this far because of all you readers who bought and read the series!! Really, truly, thank you so very much!

Though I'm wondering if the story's had too many twists and turns, by all means please continue to follow our tactics. ♥

This winter's so cold that Higashiyama ended up with her hair under her scarf, just like Haruka in this sketch.

Feb XX 2008
Kazuko Higashiyama

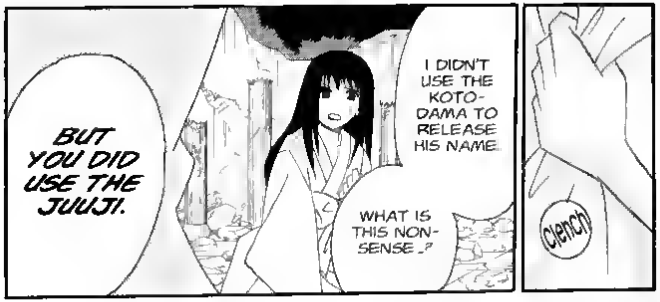
UGH... YEAH...
YOU ALL RIGHT, KANTAROU?
RIN ...?
MY NAME ..
MY NAME IS "HARUKA."
MY CONTRACT UNDER THE NAME "RIN" HAS BEEN REVOKED.

YOU'VE COME BACK TO ME, RIN...!
THAT MEANS YOU'RE FREE OF THE DOUBLE NAME-CONTRACT...
"GIVE ME A HAND, RIN"
I CAN'T STAND UP, I MAY HAVE SPRAINED MY ANKLE
SCUNCH
COME ON, RIN

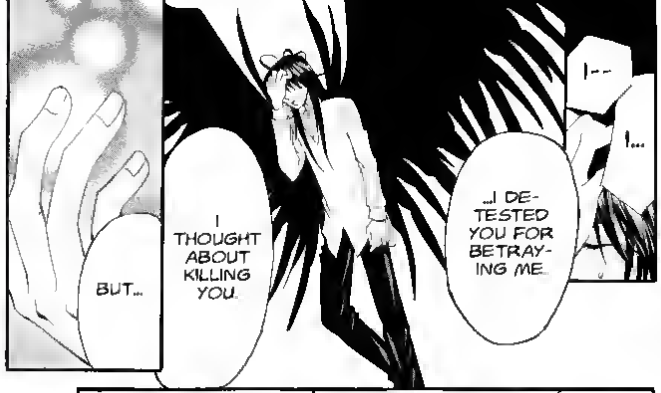
YOU HORRIBLE MAN!
YOU GOADED ME INTO USING THE JUUJI ON PURPOSE!
FOR ME, IT WAS A GAMBLE

I WAS BETTING THAT YOU WOULDN'T KNOW THAT THE JUUJI IS A HIDDEN REVOCATION... AND THAT I COULD WITHSTAND THE ATTACK.
I SURVIVED, BUT NOT WITHOUT A FEW BROKEN BONES.
AS A GENERAL RULE...

...IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR THAT SPELL TO KILL BOTH PARTIES.
YET YOU HAD ME USE THE JUUJI IN SPITE OF THAT...?


I DIDN'T USE THE KOTODAMA TO RELEASE HIS NAME.
WHAT IS THIS NONSENSE..?
clench
BUT YOU DID USE THE JUUJI.

THE JUUJI IS A FRIGHTENING SPELL... IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN THE KUJI, BUT THAT POWER REBOUNDS ON THE CASTER AS WELL.
BECAUSE IT STRIKES BOTH TARGET AND WIELDER AT THE SAME TIME, EVERYONE AVOIDS USING IT.
ALSO BECAUSE IT'S A SPELL WITH *SUCH* UNBELIEVABLE POWER...
...IT WILL OBLITERATE CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE CASTER AND ANY YOUKAI WHO ARE BOUND TO THEM.
ACCORDINGLY, THE JUUJI IS CALLED THE "HIDDEN REVOCATION." THERE ARE VERY FEW WHO KNOW OF THIS FACT.


I--
I...
...I DETESTED YOU FOR BETRAYING ME.
I THOUGHT ABOUT KILLING YOU.
BUT...

YOU ARE MY FIRST MASTER, AND THE FIRST HUMAN I ACCEPTED AS A FRIEND.
THAT'S SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER CHANGE.
I DON'T WANT IT TO CHANGE.
AND THAT'S WHY WHEN HARUKA WAS TELLING YOU...
...I DON'T WANT TO HATE YOU EVEN MORE."

SO FROM THE MOMENT I CAST THE JUJU...
YEAH... PROBABLY.
...DO YOU LOOK THAT WAY BECAUSE YOUR POWERS RETURNED WHILE I WAS FIGHTING ICHINOMIYA?
RIN...

FOR ME, THE VERY FIRST WORD WAS RIN...
...BUT IT WAS ALSO THE VERY LAST

?!
"SPEAK YOUR TRUE FEELINGS, HARUKA."
...BUT SOME THINGS WILL NEVER CHANGE
WHAT?
I MAY NOT HAVE WISHED FOR THIS RESULT
...
clench

DEMON EATER ...

CONCERN FOR THIS BODY PUTS YOU AT A DISADVANTAGE.
YOUR CONTACT WITH HUMANS HAS MADE YOU EVEN WEAKER. JUST AS I EXPECTED.

...YOU FORGET...
...ONLY MAKES ME WANT TO KILL YOU MORE CRUELLY.
WHILE THE MERE SIGHT OF YOUR FORM...

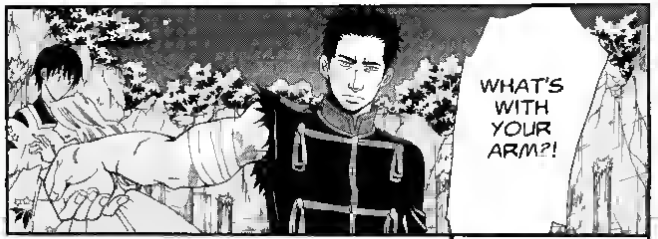
DON'T LET THEM SEDUCE YOU...
...FUJI.

YOU KNOW...
HE REALLY MEANT, "STOP, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO HATE YOU AT ALL"

DON'T CRY.
IT'S MORE YOUR STYLE TO EITHER SMILE OR LOOK ANGRY...

OH, RIN...

WHAT..
ブワ
buoosh
AUGH!


WHAT'S WITH YOUR ARM?!

MISTER DEMON EATER..
..YOU WILL FIGHT ME NOW.

I HAVE A KNACK FOR ON-MYOU-DOU...
..SO I CAN ATTACK YOUR SOUL, NOT THAT BODY
Spirits stray not from the path of righteousness, humans fall not into uncertainty
crack
SAAH!

FUJI! SUPPORT ME!
OTHERWISE YOU AND I WILL BOTH BE ANNIHILATED!
LORD SHUTEN, YOUR BEAD...!
Gasp!
NOW, RESIGN YOURSELF TO YOUR..
FUJI!
LORD SHUTEN!
...

slash
I AM THE KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU.
...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?

WHEN WE FIRST MET, DIDN'T YOU SAY...
...."ONLY THE KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU"...
...."CAN DEFEAT THIS ARM"?
I DID.
whump
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
..DO YOU LIKE HAVING THIS ARM?
Heh

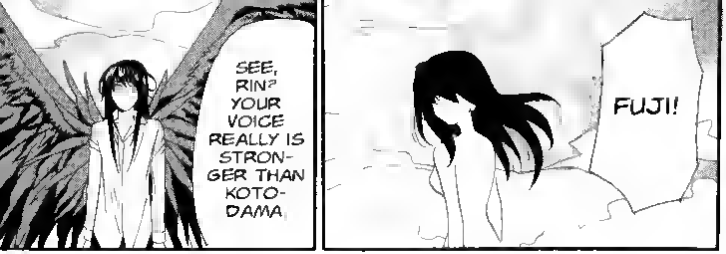
ka-tch,ink
thump

HARUKA!
...

SHUT UP, YOU.
AREN'T YOU GETTING EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANTED?
THAT'S ONE OF MY FOUR HEAV-ENLY KINGS..!!
?!
crunch
...HRGK!
GO AHEAD, TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT
ME WITH MY LIMITS REMOVED, SO YOU CAN DEFEAT ME AT MY MOST POWERFUL?
NOT GOING TO STRIKE?
ALL RIGHT, THEN AS THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE, I'LL PAY YOU BACK IN PAIN
scrllip

Crack

GIVE IT BACK ...!
ALL THAT I HAVE LEFT NOW IS MY SOUL...
NOT ONLY IS MY BODY LOST, BUT MY ONE REMAINING ARM AS WELL.
AND THIS HEAD.
KAN-TA-ROU!


SEE, RIN? YOUR VOICE REALLY IS STRONGER THAN KOTODAMA
FUJI!

IF YOU HADN'T SPOKEN TO ME AS YOU DID A MOMENT AGO...
...I DOUBT I COULD BID YOU FAREWELL WITH A SMILE ON MY FACE.

I SEE...

YOU'RE ONLY HUMAN AFTER ALL... FUJI.

pshing

...I DID GET TO HAVE SOME FUN IN THE END.
THOUGH I CAN NO LONGER BE RESURRECTED...

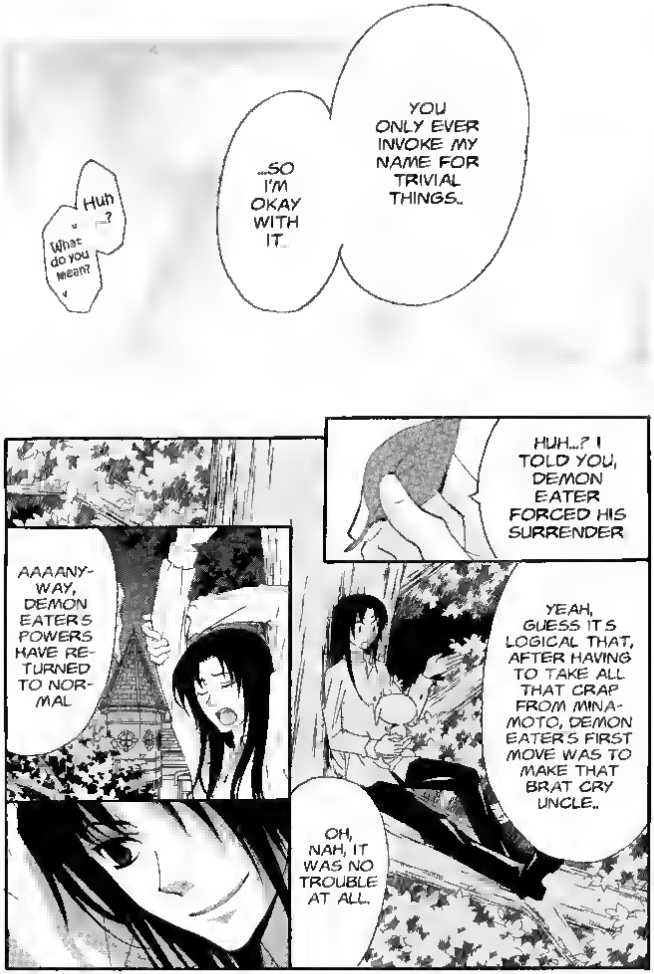
...FU...

RIN..
...IT'S...
sssshhff
...
!
HM?
WHAT WAS THAT ..?

I THINK FUJI WAS TRYING TO TELL ME SOME-THING...
JUST NOW..

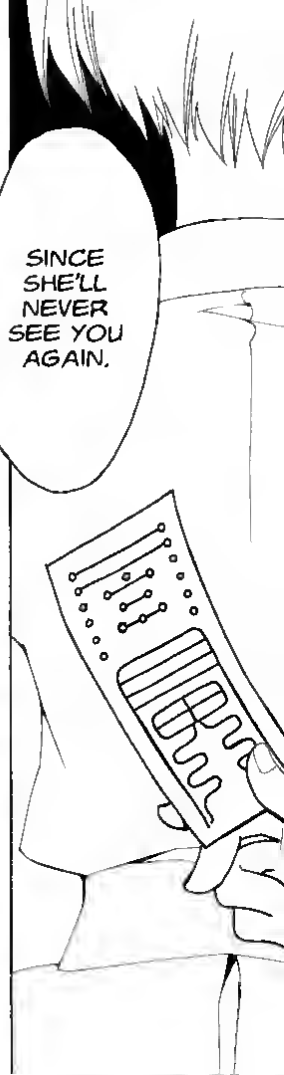
JUST THAT SHE REGRETS LEAVING YOU, HARUKA.

...GASP?!
!
..ONE FINAL BLOW..
LORD SHUTEN'S ANNIHILA-TION BRINGS OUR ANNI-HILATION.
BOTH FUJI AND I HAVE LIVED ON THANKS TO LORD SHUTEN'S POWER TO STOP TIME
SO I'LL STRIKE..
GUSHA


YOU ONLY EVER INVOKE MY NAME FOR TRIVIAL THINGS..
...SO I'M OKAY WITH IT.
Huh...?
What do you mean?
HUH...? I TOLD YOU, DEMON EATER FORCED HIS SURRENDER
AAAANY-WAY, DEMON EATER'S POWERS HAVE RE-TURNED TO NOR-MAL
YEAH, GUESS IT'S LOGICAL THAT, AFTER HAVING TO TAKE ALL THAT CRAP FROM MINA-MOTO, DEMON EATER'S FIRST MOVE WAS TO MAKE THAT BRAT CRY UNCLE..
OH, NAH, IT WAS NO TROUBLE AT ALL..

...HA-RUKA...
THANK YOU.

...


SINCE SHE'LL NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN.

KAN-
T.ROU!
WHERE'D YOU WANDER OFF TO? I'M HEADING HOME.

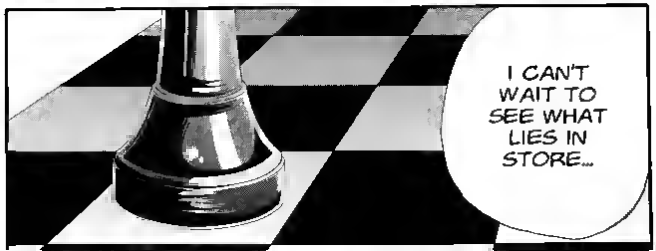
Cough
ゴホ
Cough
ゴホ
ゲホ
Hrghk!

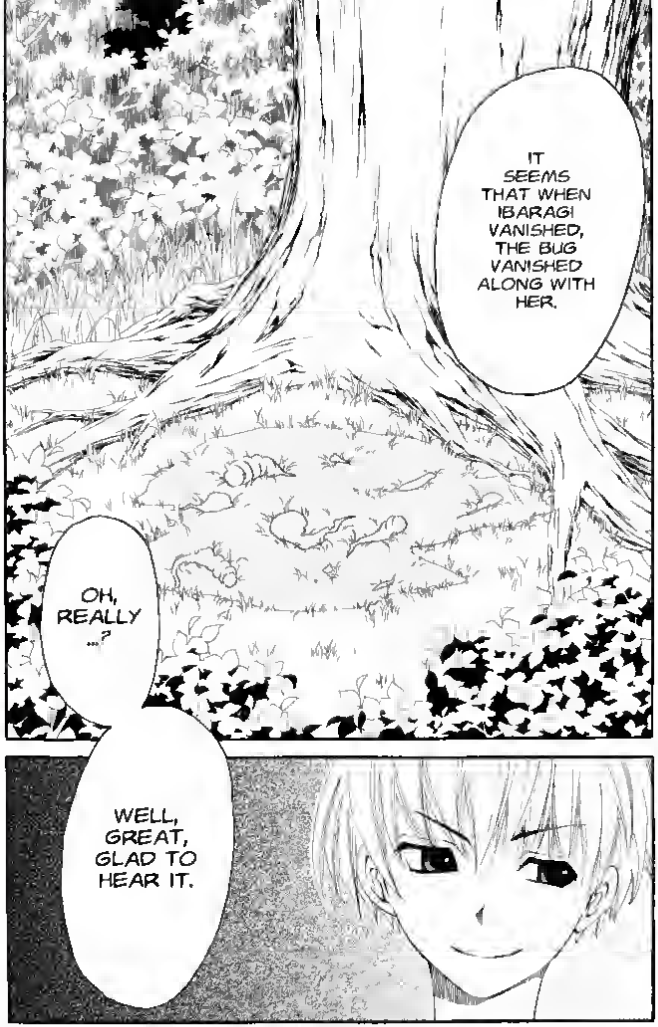
ILL...?
SORRY... I JUST FELT A LITTLE ILL...

OH, I'M ALL RIGHT.
...IS IT STILL THERE?
THAT REMINDS ME, THEY WERE SAYING THAT IBARAGI DOUJI PUT A BUG INSIDE YOUR BODY.

...KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA.
LET'S SEE HOW LONG YOU CAN MAKE A BOND BETWEEN HUMAN AND YOUKAI LAST...

NOW THEN, WHAT GAMBIT WILL THEY EMPLOY NEXT?
Hee hee
AT LAST...
AT LONG LAST, THE GAME IS AFOOT.


I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT LIES IN STORE...


IT SEEMS THAT WHEN IBARAGI VANISHED, THE BUG VANISHED ALONG WITH HER.
OH, REALLY ...?
WELL, GREAT, GLAD TO HEAR IT.